



MEAP

Coordinator Update

Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability – Michigan Educational Assessment Program – Vol. 2, No. 3 – October 8, 2004

Fall 2004 MEAP HST Materials Shipped to Schools and Districts

Testing materials for the Fall 2004 MEAP high school tests were shipped according to schedule on Thursday, October 7, and can be expected to arrive in districts no later than Tuesday, October 12. You may check the status of your materials shipments at <http://12.146.174.139/>

We are pleased to report that test materials, accommodation materials, and pre-ID student labels were packaged in separate shipments, and all were shipped on the same date. Unless you only recently sent your request for accommodation materials, there are no straggler shipments to worry about.

Printed versions of the *Fall 2004 MEAP High School Test Administrator Manual* are included in the materials shipment. It is also available in electronic format on the MEAP public website at: www.michigan.gov/meap under the heading “Information for Educators”. The *MEAP Coordinator Handbook* is published only in electronic format and will be posted to the MEAP public website by the end of the day, Monday, October 11.

Join Us at the OEAA Fall Conferences

There is still time to register and attend the remaining Office of Educational Assessment & Accountability Fall Conferences (formerly known as the MEAP Fall Conferences). More than 1,600 registrations have been received for the five conference dates. Remaining dates and locations include:

- Wednesday, October 13 – Grand Rapids – Crowne Plaza
- Monday, October 18 – Sterling Heights – Best Western Sterling Inn

Topics include:

- Content Area Updates
- Getting Ready for Fall Testing 2005
- MI-Access Updates
- EdYES! and AYP Updates
- Understanding MEAP Writing Scores Workshop
- Grade Level Content Expectations: Assessment and Instructional Implications
- Is It Ethical?
- And More!

Registration is available at www.gomiem.org. Be sure to “click” the conference title “Office of Educational Assessment & Accountability Fall Conference 2004” for the conference agenda and session descriptions. Links to the registration site are also available at the MEAP and OEAA websites.

Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCE)

The State Board of Education adopted Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCE) for English language arts and Mathematics in November of 2003 and released them across the state on March 30, 2004.

The Grade Level Content Expectations are the third tier of Michigan's Curriculum Frameworks and will directly correlate to items on the grade level assessments. While content standards and benchmarks represent the full scope of the curriculum expected to be taught and learned in Michigan schools, the GLCE are specific and clarify what it is that students are expected to know and do on grade level assessments.

The GLCE are incorporated in most of the grade-span (K-2, 3-5, 6-8) benchmarks. They set high expectations for students at each grade level.

To assist educators with the implementation of the Grade Level Content Expectations, teams of educators from across the state worked to create companion documents that support the GLCE in English language arts and Mathematics. These companion documents, which connect the familiar with the new, include GLCE alignments to the ELA Michigan Curriculum Framework, Reading First/LTRS®, MLPP and Mi-Class. Mathematics documents include K-4 and 5-8 alignments to the Michigan Framework as well as a 'Looking Across the Grades' document. GLCE Parent Guides for kindergarten through second grade, which are easily reproduced, have been developed for use in schools. A professional development model complete with PowerPoint is available for training purposes. All of the documents are available on the MDE website (<http://www.michigan.gov/mde>) under "MDE Quick Links, Grade Level Content Expectations," on the right side of the page.

Assessment Development Update

As the OEAA Fall Conferences have demonstrated, there is a great deal of interest in developments related to the new MEAP assessments for grades 3 through 8—what they will look like and how they will be administered.

This update covers several topics that are of interest to educators who want to learn more about how the curriculum and assessment are expected to change beginning with the fall 2005 MEAP testing cycle.

Field Testing of New Assessment Items

Previous MEAP Coordinator Updates have described the extensive field-testing that is necessary during the winter 2005 testing cycle to enable OEAA to release all core items each future year (see July 29 and August 31, 2004 issues). In those grades and subject areas that have taken the MEAP assessments in the past, field test items will be embedded in the base test booklets along with the operational items. In other grades (i.e., grades 3, 5, 6 and 7 for mathematics and 3, 5, 6 and 8 for English language arts (ELA) MEAP will be using stand-alone field-tests to generate items for use in fall 2005.

The sample of schools involved in stand-alone field-testing will be selected to represent the diverse population of students in the state. Using such a systematic sample will ensure that the field-test items that succeed will work effectively for all students. Schools selected for the field-test are required to participate and will receive notification on Tuesday, October 12, 2004, via email to the district superintendent and MEAP coordinator. Selected schools will be asked to administer either the ELA or the mathematics field-tests at all appropriate grades, but not both.

Several schools and districts have volunteered for the stand-alone field-testing. We appreciate these volunteers and will contact them if needed to complete the sample. Our primary goal is to field-test items in schools that are representative of the diverse population in Michigan and use the results to select the best items for operational testing in the future.

“The Matrix”

A term that has surfaced in the age of enhanced accountability and the growth in testing needed to assess student progress is “matrix sampling.” Just what does this mean, and how does it work?

To visualize the process, suppose that we create a two-dimensional grid (or spreadsheet) in which we list a set of test forms (1 through 12) down the side and a set of 12 assessment items (A through L) across the top. To reduce the amount of testing required to obtain school- or district-level data on all 12 items, we could include items A and B on Form 1, B and C on Form 2, C and D on Form 3, etc., as shown in the table below.

Form	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1	X	X										
2		X	X									
3			X	X								
4				X	X							
5					X	X						
6						X	X					
7							X	X				
8								X	X			
9									X	X		
10										X	X	
11											X	X
12	X											X

Each student’s test form would have only two items, but across the school and/or district, each item appears on two forms. For example, in a district with 180 fourth-graders, each item will receive responses from 30 students—sufficient for reporting at the district level, but not on an individual student level.

Since MEAP needs to embed approximately 100 replacement items in the operational mathematics assessments for each grade being tested in fall 2005, matrix sampling will reduce the number of field-test items each student needs to take to about 9—thereby reducing testing time while meeting the need for replacements to the core items that will be released annually.

GLCE Survey

Shortly, you will receive notice of a survey that Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) is conducting in conjunction with the Office of School Improvement. This survey will give Michigan educators and parents an opportunity to provide advice on which GLCE are capable of being assessed at the state level, and which of these should receive the most emphasis in the assessment process.

The Michigan Department of Education has taken a close look at the GLCE and has made an initial determination of which ones are assessable, which ones should be used to assess the core and which ones should be treated as “extended” or “future” core. We will be asking you to respond to these draft decisions by giving us feedback on GLCEs you believe may be misclassified.

We expect that the survey will be posted for input the week of October 11. MEAP Coordinators will be contacted with the information that will lead them to the survey on the Web. Please be on the lookout for this important information.

MEAP Listserv Coming Soon!

Plans are underway to establish a MEAP information and announcement listserv. So many individuals have made requests to be added to the *MEAP Coordinator Update* email list, that we needed to find an easy way to make additions and corrections.

Once the listserv is established, any individual with an interest in current MEAP information will be able to add themselves to the distribution list. Administrators, teachers, parents, and others who sign up for the list will receive current editions of the *MEAP Coordinator Update* as well as special announcements and information. In addition to the listserv, the MEAP office will continue to maintain superintendent and assessment coordinators email addresses in the existing database.

Watch future editions of the *MEAP Coordinator Update* for further information about the listserv and help spread the word.

MEAP Contact Information

MEAP email address: meap@michigan.gov

MEAP web site: www.michigan.gov/meap

MEAP secure database: www.michigan.gov/meap-secure

MEAP Office local phone number: 517-373-8393

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